

Parental Mental Health and Child Welfare Network Study Day – 11 November 2005

Facts

- 120 people attended the study day, including delegates, workshop leaders, presenters and support staff
- 59 delegates completed evaluation forms

1. Were your objectives met?

Yes 42
No 3
Partly 4

2. If you were to sum up this study day in one sentence what would you say?

Positive comments

Varied,informative, useful, enjoyable, stimulating, inspiring

An excellent networking opportunity

An awful lot in a little time

Stimulating speakers

I felt inspired and enthusiastic

It is a start for me personally

Welcome in its intent, ambitious in its scope, exciting for its potential to build upon

Negative comments

Not enough time for discussion

Potential was there – an opportunity missed

Somewhat lacking in focus and direction

I had hoped for more in depth information but the general overview was helpful

Slightly condemning of mental health services

Workshops too didactic – let us do things and talk to each other

3. How did you rate the following:

Pre meeting administration

Excellent 39
Good 17
Fair 3

Venue and facilities

Excellent 42
Good 12
Fair 1

Organisation on the day

Excellent 22
Good 23
Fair 9
Poor 1

Chairing – Di McNeish

Excellent 19
Good 28
Fair 8

Morning speaker – Paul Curran

Excellent 8
Good 21
Fair 20
Poor 9

Comment: first part was a bit heavy going; the second part was practical and useful

Afternoon speaker – David Morris

Excellent 24
Good 20
Fair 5
Poor 2

Comment: too long and too much rhetoric. I would have preferred something more digestible and to have practical implications drawn out

Workshop 1:**Helping clinicians to meet the needs of families with parental mental health problems**

Excellent 5
Good 10
Fair 8

Workshop 2**Promoting service user and carer participation in pre and post qualifying training**

Excellent 2
Good 3
Fair 3

Workshop 3**Using family perspectives to develop inter-professional learning at qualifying level**

Good 3
Fair 1

Workshop 4

Health and parenting: how should it affect the social inclusion agenda

Excellent	1
Good	9
Fair	4
Poor	1

Workshop 5

Social work education and training on mental health issues affecting children and families

Good	5
Fair	4
Poor	2

Comment: the audience were not engaged during this workshop

Workshop 6

Talking to children

Excellent	7
Good	8
Fair	5

Workshop 7

Developing services for families where a parent has a mental health problem

Excellent	1
Good	6
Fair	15
Poor	4

4. What did you find most useful about the study day

Finding out about innovative practice

The opportunity to network

Finding out about social inclusion agenda

Useful for learning and development

The amount of information available to take away

Keynote speeches

Wonderful food at lunchtime

Workshop discussions

Venue and facilities

Becoming aware of the number of agencies and professional backgrounds involved in this work

Workshop 6

It was free

The programme for the event was well balanced, covering both policy and practice.

5. What did you find least useful about the study day

Workshops were too brief and were disappointing

There was not enough time for discussion

Paul Curran – not enough focus, didn't apologise for being late, did not refer to the voluntary sector, lacked energy, was not relevant to theme

I wanted to hear a strategy perspective during the workshops, not the 'hard end'

The workshop group was too big for the room size

Workshops 4, 5 and 7

Both speakers – too long and detailed

Too much time in plenary

I wasn't allocated to the workshop of my choice so I had to 'gatecrash' the one I wanted.

I would like to have received a handout of the overhead presentations so that I could make notes. There was a lot of information to digest.

Lack of service user involvement except with workshop 2

Schedule was too rushed

It needed a stronger research component. What services have a proven track record?

The workshops were not well targeted in terms of the topic of the day

I had hoped we could have talked about training needs in terms of practice

6. Changes or improvements

Content

Include issues about BME and mental health

Include presentation from service user/ carer

More emphasis on research and evidence base, less focus on policy

Have a themed event with the keynote speakers opening, closing and addressing the theme eg increasing resilience in the children of parents with mental health problems. Workshops would address different elements of the theme

More networking with service user networks and organisations

More examples of good practice eg Building Bridges/ Keeping The Family In Mind, and more reference to evidence based practice

Have interactive workshops

More case studies

Young carers (impact and support)

How families and children culturally view mental health

We are aware of the issues – we need to think about how to address them

Speakers and workshops

More detailed description for each workshop to allow participants to make better choice according to their existing skills and experience

Better pre-event liaison with speakers so they understand why they are there to present

Invite adult psychiatrists and CMHT managers to be keynote speakers

Workshops need to be more geared towards theme of whole day

Avoid presentation/ lecture style for workshops

The plenary room was not suitable for a workshop and affected the experience of the participants

Schedule for day

Have 3 workshops and 1 keynote speech
Key note speakers should present one after the other and take questions at the end
More time discussing interventions
Change time allocation for plenary and workshops
Shorter lunch break, earlier finish
Better time management to avoid over running and shortened workshops
Spend more time on fewer issues
Needs more time
Have workshop straight after lunch
More opportunity to find out who's who eg there were a few delegates local to me who I was unable to locate
Greater opportunity to learn more from each other eg open space style event

Other

Make handouts available for all workshops and speeches
Spend more time on adult mental health
Make a clear distinction between practical networking and theory focussed workshops
Hold outside London
Enable delegates to exchange contact information

7. Agenda of next study day

BME families
Perinatal services
Auditing effectiveness of interfacing activities
Data protection and information sharing – the dilemmas
Partnerships between statutory and voluntary sectors
Support for front line workers
Parents with learning difficulties, housing and substance misuse problems
Move the debate from policy into practice issues
Converting learning to practice with successful case examples and skills training
Consideration of stigma and its impact on all areas of work
Detailed comparisons of service developments
Developing specific programmes for ethnic groups dealing with prejudice against them
Professional boundary breaking
Children as carers – how does this affect their lives
How CAMHS address parental mental health
Feedback from local networks
A cheerful presentation about what works
Common assessment framework
Parenting skills for parents with multiple health and social care needs
Lessons from 'near misses'
Look at different settings eg early Years (Sure Start), perinatal mental health
Legal considerations – working across agencies
A clear user-friendly model for collaborative work